**MINUTES**

**WORKING GROUP 1: EU PRODUCTION**

Wednesday 23 May 2018

11:30-16:00

Leopold Hotel Brussels EU   
Rue du Luxembourg 35-1050 Bruxelles

**Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair of Working Group 1, Sean O’Donoghue, welcomed those present.

**Adoption of the agenda and minutes of last meeting (23.01.18)**

Both the agenda and the minutes of last meeting were approved with no further comments.

**Action points last meeting**

The Chair gave an overview of the action points and progress made on each of the points from the last meeting (17.05.2017). These were:

**EMFF post 2020**

* Focus Group to take place on the 13 February in Brussels. Completed
* Members will be invited to participate, ideally respecting 2 catching sector, 2 processors, 2 NGOs Completed
* Take into account the letter from DG MARE with the three questions in order to draft the paper Competed
* Write to DG MARE about the deadline given for a response as it is too short Completed

**PMPs**

* Set up Focus Group Completed
* Pierre Carnet to formulate a more structured document Completed
* Mid-February/March the draft will be sent to members of WG1 Completed
* Finalisation of document before May meeting Competed
* Seek clarification from DG MARE on the funding of PMPs in 2021 and 2022 Completed
* Inclusion of mention of Competitiveness in guidelines Completed
* Inclusion of the relevant issue raised in the Life report small scale fisheries and PMPs Completed

**Marketing Standards**

* Examples of what other sectors do as a basis for discussion in May. Completed
* Start evaluation and review at the May meeting Completed

**Competitiveness of the Fleet**

* Request yearly presentation from STECF Completed
* Follow up on the invitation from M. Keatinge to participate in the STECF meeting Completed

**EMFF**

The Chair gave an overview of the procedure of the drafting and approving the MAC opinion on the EMFF. The document approved contains both general and specific measures:

*You can find the advice [here](http://mac.altitude-design.be/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MAC-Opinion-EMFF.pdf).*

General measures:

* Simplification
* Avoid delays in funding
* Modern financial instruments
* Preservation of marketing measures
* Measures Financed under Direct Management
* More cooperation between MS

Specific measures

* Marketing and Processing Measures
* Funding AC
* Financial Framework
* Intensity Public aid
* Regional Solutions to tackle regional challenges
* Support for small scale coastal fisheries

The MAC will follow closely developments on this issue.

The European Commission (COM) is carrying out an interim evaluation on the direct management component of the EMFF. This evaluation is particularly relevant for ACs, as they are funded under direct management.

The LDAC stated that under article 86 of the EMFF the ACs could get funding for scientific projects, yet the ACs depend on COM to launch a call for tenders and compete with other organisations for the funding.

The Chair added that the ACs should coordinate to request the direct availability of these funding opportunities.

Good Fish Foundation expressed her agreement with this idea.

The MAC will coordinate with other ACs in drafting a letter in this regard. The Focus Group established to draft the EMFF opinion will reconvene once the proposal is published.

**Competitiveness of the fleet**

* Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

The Chair stated that the competitiveness of the fleet is a fundamental issue for the MAC and STECF will be invited once a year to present their Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet. The first presentation took place during the last WG1 meeting in January 2018.

The MAC decided in January to actively participate in the STECF meetings. The next meeting on the annual economic report of the EU fleet will take place in Dublin 11-15 June. The MAC will seek an invitation from the STECF to participate as an observer. During the meeting, pricing of fish, fluctuation of oil prices and other scenarios will be discussed.

EMPA wondered whether STECF plans to deal with the competitiveness of aquaculture.

Richard Curtin, on behalf of BIM, informed that STECF has a separated meeting on the Economic Report of the Aquaculture Sector (end of 2018-beginning of 2019).

AIPCE considered necessary that the representative of the MAC in the STECF meeting has knowledge on the whole value chain in order to proper represent the MAC and its scope. The reports of STECF on the fleet and aquaculture, together with the report on the EU fish processing sector, could give a broader and complete picture.

The Chair agreed with pursuing an overall picture. The WGs need to study how to do this through a management meeting.

Visfederatie stated that in the annual economic report of the EU fish processing sector there is a chapter entitled *Trends and drivers for change, outlook for the industry*. This could be shared before the meetings to facilitate input.

The COM clarified that these chapters will come out in September-October. With regards to the report on the fleet, it will be published early September. Recommendations and advices from the MAC are welcomed. The COM also informed that this year there is a call for data from the sector on the long distant fleet in order to expand and boost the analysis of the report.

The Chair stated that once the report is ready and before it is published, the MAC will have an opportunity to comment on it. The representative from the MAC attending the meeting in June would be able to share a view on this.

**Commission’s proposed review of the 1996 marketing standards**

* MAC perspective: organisation of work and way forward
* Presentation by Pim Visser

AND International, the leader of the consortium that is carrying out the evaluation of the marketing standards framework, made a presentation. The presentation touched upon the objectives of the evaluation study, the methodology used, evaluation questions to be addressed and next steps, among others.

*You can find the presentation [here.](http://mac.altitude-design.be/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MKT-Standards_MAC-Presentation_Submitted_v2.pdf)*

ADEPALE asked whether this exercise will revise all marketing standards, beyond regulation No 2406/96.

The COM clarified that it will address all of them and even products that are currently not subject to marketing standards to assess where needs exist. The aim is to have a broad picture on the coherence and usefulness of the marketing standards as a measure. The voluntary standards existing already in some MS will also be assessed.

Good Fish Foundation asked whether the MAC is expected to give input in the public consultation and where do consumer fit as stakeholders in the consultative process.

AND International replied that consumers will be consulted in a wider public consultation.

The COM invited members of the MAC and the MAC itself to reply to the public consultation and clarified that marketing standards today are a tool to facilitate business-to-business relation, with no relevance to consumers. The COM will not tackle the information on sustainability that is provided to the consumer. However they will look at these schemes from the supply chain perspective.

Fischverband considered that the two standards for canned tuna and sardines are consumer information.

The COM clarified that those contain elements of consumer provisions, but they have a composition dimension and tackle the quality itself. The COM will not look at information provided to the consumer but rather the standards that define a product.

AIPCE questioned whether “sustainability” is one of the main goals of the marketing measures, as it was recorded in one of the slides. Given the huge differences between species in terms of quota, minimum conservation sizes, he asked the COM whether they will single out species.

The COM, regarding sustainability, agreed with AIPCE in that is not a main goal under Regulation No 2406/96 but according to the CMO, it is. In this sense, there is a clear discrepancy between the measures in place and the objectives they are supposed to achieve. On the second question, the COM will look at the consistency of the whole framework in place, seeking cases in which the marketing standards do not work. The COM invited members of the MAC to come up with examples of any possible inconsistency.

CEP stated that fish is in competition with other food products and there should be a level playing field on the conditions under which both fish and other food products are placed on the market.

The COM will look at what happens in other sectors.

The Chair asked whether the COM will cover the technological developments occurred since 1996 (when the marketing standards were adopted). He also wondered whether guidelines should be in place rather than marketing standards.

The COM responded that indeed, technological developments are one of the key elements that need to be investigated. The evaluation will look at the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the measures. Whether we should go with marketing standards or scrapping the entire framework, will be decided afterwards.

FEAP requested further controls on imported aquaculture products.

AND International stated that indeed controls are a huge aspect of the evaluation but it will focus on marketing standards that already exist and whether we need these standards for aquaculture.

VisNed made a presentation on an overview of the marketing standards. The main action points with regards to the way forward for the MAC were the following:

*You can find the presentation [here.](http://mac.altitude-design.be/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/180523-WG1-Marketing-standards.pdf)*

* Investigation by a Market Standards Focus Group
* Secretariat to initiate drafting of a set of TOR
  + Find out about the legal procedure
  + Learn from sectors like: poultry, eggs dairy and fruit?
  + Do’s and don’t s in detailed regulation or framework with private norms
    - Is this novel, is this (im)possible, is it win win or lose lose?
  + Get input from stakeholders about their requirements on marketing standards
    - General principles
    - Direct Capture requirements
    - Imports specifics
    - Consumer requirements
* Report on first phase and propose for next phase in autumn 2018

It was agreed to create a Focus Group to deal with the marketing standards to be chaired by Pim Visser of maximum 10 members, with the aim at reporting to the Working Group. The FC would have to provide at least an interim report by the October meeting. The COM will be invited to participate in this FG so as not to duplicate the work done. A final report will be prepared by January 2019.

EMPA informed that in some countries the inter professional groups define the standards and it is up to the MS to make them compulsory, therefore these groups should not be forgotten in the process.

LIFE stated that level the playing field for products coming into the EU market from outside is a crosscutting issue that should not be forgotten.

The Chair agreed with the previous speakers. The FG will identify which regulations are not fit for purpose in a wider scope, beyond the 1996 regulation.

**Production and Marketing Plans**

* Recommendations and guidelines prepared by MAC

The Chair gave an overview of the process of drafting and adoption of the guidelines and invited members to come up with ideas with regards to the communication strategy in circulating the document.

LIFE stated that they miss measures to achieve social objectives and appropriate representation of small scale fisheries in POs.

The Chair clarified that the guidelines only focus on the production and marketing plans, therefore representation is not an issue to discuss in this context. On the social aspect, EAPO explained that it is covered in the toolbox included in the guidelines.

The COM will provide the MAC with the list of POs for distribution.

The Chair finally informed that as one of the action items on the follow up of the EMFF decided upon during the last WG1 meeting (January 2018) the MAC requested the COM to clarify whether or not the Production and Marketing Plans will be funded in 2021 and 2022 under the EMFF and if so, what will be the mechanism to drawn down these funds.

In their reply, the COM stated that *there is no indication of an interruption in the CFP funding in 2021 and 2022 as Article 65 (2) of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/20131 guarantees eligibility until 31 December 2023. As regards the financing of these measures, any expenditure incurred by a beneficiary and paid before 31 December 2023 is eligible, provided it was included in the 2014-2020 operational program of the Member State. This means that PMPs measures to be implemented in the years between 2021 and 2023 will be financed by the EMFF if planned in the current operational programs as well as committed and paid before the end of 2023.*

For this reason, the Chair invited those members from MS not having this included in their operational programme to seek an amendment to it otherwise there could be problem in getting funding 2021 and 2022 for PMPs.

**Summary of actions & decisions taken**

**EMFF:**

* Follow up on the Interim evaluation of the direct management under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
* Meeting with the evaluation team/consultancy carrying out the evaluation
* Propose ACs to coordinate in writing a letter in response to that impact assessment
* Reconvene the FG once EMFF proposal published.

**STECF:**

* Annual economic report of the EU fleet meeting 11-15 June: invitation MAC.
* Volunteer from MAC to attend the meeting
* Invite STECF Chair to WG1 on an annual basis.

**MARKETING STANDARDS**

* Reply to consultation
* Focus Group:
* Chair Pim Visser
* Interested members to forward names to Secretariat by Friday 1st June
* Similar call for interested members to be made at WG2 meeting on the 24th May to forward names to Secretariat by Friday 1st June.
* 2 meetings: one before the summer break, another one before WGs in October
* Chair to circulate Terms of reference, which will include exploring other sectors and best practices
* WG1 gave a mandate to FG to broaden the Terms of reference if necessary
* Commission will be invited to the FG meetings
* Report progress to WG1 at October meeting

**PMPs**

* Guidelines to be put on Commission’s site
* Distribution of the Guidelines to POs, MS and relevant actors

**End of the meeting**

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| NAME |  | ORGANISATION |
| Alexandre | Rodriguez | **LDAC** |
| Andrew | Kuyk | **CEP** |
| Arnault | Chaperon | **FEAP** |
| Aurelio | Bilbao | **OPESCAYA** |
| Aurora | De Blas | **Conxemar** |
| Brian | O Riordan | **LIFE** |
| Bruno | Guillaumie | **EMPA** |
| Carola | Gonzalez Kessler | **European Commission** |
| Chiara | Bacci | **European Commission** |
| Christine | Absil | **Good Fish Foundation** |
| Claudia | Orlandini | **LIFE** |
| Claudia | Vinci | **AIPCE** |
| Cristina | Fernandez | **Seafish** |
| Daniel | Voces | **Europeche** |
| Eduardo | Miguez Lopez | **Puerto Celeiro** |
| Elena | Ghezzi | **Copa-Cogeca** |
| Emiel | Brouckaert | **EAPO** |
| Felicidad | Fernandez | **ANFACO** |
| Frangiskos | Nikolian | **European Commission** |
| Guus | Pastoor | **AIPCE** |
| Hans | Nieuwenhuis | **MSC** |
| Hector | Villa | **Permanent Representation of Spain** |
| Hugo | Boyle | **ISEFPOv (Irish South & East Fish Producer's Organisation)** |
| Javier | Ojeda | **FEAP** |
| Jean-Marie | Robert | **Les pecheurs de bretagne** |
| Joanna | Zurawska | **Poland** |
| Jose Basilio | Otero Rodriguez | **Federación Pescadores de Lugo** |
| Juan | Maneiro | **Conxemar** |
| Katarina | SIPIC | **Conxemar** |
| Kirsten | Ruckes | **European Parliament** |
| Krishan | Kent | **Fiskbranschens Riksforbund** |
| Lorcán | Ó Cinnéide | **IFPEA** |
| Manon | Leurey | **LIFE** |
| Maria | Aira | **MAC** |
| Matthias | Keller | **Bundesverband der deutschen Fischindustrie und des Fischgrosshandels e.V.** |
| Michael | Turenhout | **Visfederatie** |
| Michel | Claes | **ETF** |
| Patrick | Murphy | **Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation, CLG (IS&WFPO, CLG)** |
| Paul | McDonald | **Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation** |
| Pierre | Commere | **ADEPALE** |
| Pim | Visser | **VisNed** |
| Richard | Curtin | **BIM** |
| Roberto Carlos | Alonso | **Eurothon** |
| Rosalie | Tukker | **Europeche** |
| Sandra | Sanmartin | **MAC** |
| Sean | O’Donoghue | **KFO** |
| Sergio | Lopez | **OPP Lugo** |
| Thomas | Kruse | **Danish Fishermen PO** |